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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,739	11/26/2003	Myung Ho Kang	K-0574	3952

34610 7590 08/14/2006

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EXAMINER

PATEL, RITA RAMESH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/721,739

Applicant(s)

KANG, MYUNG HO

Examiner

Rita R. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgement has been made of applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. This application claims the benefit of Korean Application No. 10-2002-074988 filed on November 29, 2002.

Drawings

The drawings received 11/26/03 are acceptable for examination purposes.

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The

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disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura Kyosuke and Kajiwara Hiroshi herein referred to as "Kyosuke-Kajiwara" (Japanese Publication No. H-03-143419). The Japanese document is also enclosed, please specifically look at the Abstract, page 2 on bottom right-hand quadrant, and on the top left-hand quadrant of page 3 of Kyosuke-Kajiwara for a detailed teaching of the reference described herein.

Kyosuke-Kajiwara teaches a dishwasher with a cavity therein, as shown in Figure 1, where drying occurs; during drying steam is created within the dishwasher. Fan 28 and the walls of the dishwasher enclose the steam within the dishwasher. Kyosuke-Kajiwara's invention aids in improving drying efficiency of dishes, decreasing cleaning noise, and preventing dew condensation of vapor around an air outlet by providing a damper means to open the air outlet or air discharging passage only in the drying process. A cleaning tub 15 is providing with a door 23 to open or close the front face, and the door 23 has an air suction inlet 24 inside and an air discharge outlet 25 outside. An air discharge damper 26 is fixed through a shaft at the upper end rotatably between

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the inlet 24 and outlet 25, which usually closes by its own weight. As a result, vapor does not escape through the outlet 25 during the dish cleaning, and further cleaning noise in the tub 15 is interrupted and operation noise to be heard is also decreased. After discharging the cleaning water at the finish of cleaning, an air exhausting fan 28 is driven by a fan motor 27 to exhaust vapor in the tub 15 through outlet 25. At this time, the air pressure of the fan 28 rotates the damper 26 to open the air discharging passage. After the finish of drying, the damper 26 closes by its own weight, which prevents invasion of dust therein (Abstract).

Fan motor 27 and fan 28 reads on applicant's claim for a fan motor and fan for guiding the steam discharged by operation of the fan motor. The openings formed at the air suction inlet 24 and air discharge outlet 25 of Kyosuke-Kajiwara reads on applicant's claim for a steam exhaust port and a steam intake port. Discharge outlet 25 is opened only by operation of the air discharge damper 26, thus reading on applicant's claim for an intake port cover movably installed for opening and closing the steam intake port. The air discharge damper 26 is fixed through a shaft at the upper end rotatably between the inlet 24 and outlet 25, thus reading on coupling means for linking the intake port cover with the rotation shaft for selectively opening and closing the steam intake port. Moreover, vapor does not escape through the outlet 25 during dish cleaning, it only is released at the end of cleaning, from outlet 25 when air exhausting fan 28 is driven by a fan motor 27 in the vapor in the tub 15; hence reading on applicant's claims wherein the steam intake port opens during a performance of a drying step by the dishwasher and closes during a performance of washing and rinsing steps

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by the dishwasher. Kyosuke-Kajiwara's invention provides coupling means, or linking of the cover of the intake port with the rotation shaft of the fan motor, whereby driving force of the fan motor is transferred to the intake port cover for selective opening/closing; Kyosuke-Kajiwara couples the discharge outlet 25 with direct operation of the fan motor 27 for combined operation within the outer walls of the dishwasher. Thus, discharge outlet 25 is linked for operation with the rotational shaft of the fan motor 27, because as the rotational shaft of the motor is operated, the discharge outlet will open/close selectively in response to emit vapor.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: in claim 3, applicant provides a structural limitation wherein the intake port cover has a central shaft for linking with the rotational shaft of the fan motor. Although Kyosuke-Kajiwara embodies a dishwasher that has coupling means for linking within the washer an intake port cover and a rotational shaft of the fan motor by embodying both features within the walls of the dishwasher, and which are also integrally used in combination for selectively opening and closing said port, Kyosuke-Kajiwara fails to disclose motivation to link the central shaft of the intake port cover to the rotational shaft of the fan motor.

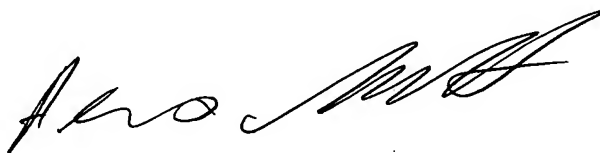
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita R. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-8701. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RRP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Markoff', written in a cursive style.

ALEXANDER MARKOFF
PRIMARY EXAMINER